(c) whether Government propose to review the customs duty in this regard with a view to facilitating setting up of such project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) General rate of import duty on machinery (including the glass making machinery) falling under chapter 84 or chapter 85 of the Customs Tarrif Act, 1975 is 25% (basic) plus 16% (additional) plus 4% (spl. additional duty). At present, there is no proposal under consideration for review of the customs duty on glass making machinery.

Interference in the working of CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road

2132. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA :

DR. A. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, New Delhi exclusively falls under the jurisdiction and administrative control of CGHS;

(b) if so, Whether the Advisor/Deputy Advisor/Assistant Advisor of the Department of ISM&H regularly interfere with the working of the Hospital, attend the Hospital daily and issue prescriptions unauthorisedly;

(c) whether D.G./Director/Additional Directors do not attend CGHS hospitals/dispensaries and exclusively function from their respective offices whereas the Advisor/Deputy Advisor/Assistant Advisor of ISM&H attend this Hospital which impairs the independent functioning of the Hospital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Asstt. Advisor, Department of ISM&H attends weekly clinic on Saturday in the CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, New

Delhi. Advisor, Department of ISM&H attends the Kshar-Sutra-Clinic on every Tuesday in the above Hospital.

The Government could not get a suitable candidate for the post of Medical Superintendent, CGHS, Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road for filling up the same on deputation basis. As no officer of CGHS cadre is senior enough to be promoted to the post of Medical Superintendent of CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, the Advisor (Ayurveda) who is the senior most officer in the cadre has been given the additional charge of the post of Medical Superintendent in this hospital.

(c) and (d) Though DG/Director/Additional Directors of CGHS function from their respective offices, inspections of CGHS dispensaries/hospitals are conducted by CGHS officers from time to time. Adviser/Deputy Adviser are authorised to attend the CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, New Delhi once a week and this does not impair the independent functioning of the hospital.

Spread of Small Pox by Bio-terrorists

2133. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA :

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is likelihood of the spread of small pox in the country by bio-terrorists after anthrax; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Not a single specimen tested for Anthrax in the designated laboratories found positive. There is a remote possibility of spread of small pox by the bio-terrorists. A detailed list of biological agents used as weapon prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to Health Secretary and Director of Health Services of all States/UTs, and Central Government Hospitals advising them to take precautionary steps :

(i) earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency.